Exchange participant questionnaire

Complete and return this form at the halfway point of your overseas program.

Dates of your exchange: Aug-Dec
Your name: Nepaya
Today’s date: Jan 10 2007
Host university: Thammasat

Travel

Approximately how much did air transportation cost? $1600
Approximately how much did any required ground transportation cost? $3/day
Do you have a recommended routing or airline? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, please describe: ______________________________________________________

Visas

Did you need a student visa? ☒ Yes ☐ No
What was the cost? $60
Where was your visa processed? Thai Consulate in Vancouver
How long did it take to prepare your visa? 2 days
What documentation was needed? passport, letter from host university, pictures

Airport reception

Were you met at the airport by representatives of the university? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? ☒ Yes ☐ No
What is the closest airport to the host university? The main airport

Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If yes, do you recommend that future students participate? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Is there a language program available before the term begins? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, how long is it? The language term
Is there an additional cost for language training? ☐ No ☒ Yes, how much?

Accommodation & living

Are you living on-campus? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Is off-campus housing easily available? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Please comment on off-campus housing: furnished, no kitchen
Are you living in a university dormitory? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Can you make a recommendation for a specific dormitory? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If yes, describe: ___________________________________________________________

What is the average monthly cost of accommodation? $200-300
Is there a meal plan? ☐ No ☒ Yes. How much is it? _________________________
If no, do you have access to adequate cooking facilities? ☒ Yes ☐ No
Approximately how much money per month is needed for living, including accommodation and meals? $1000-1500

Financial details

Is it easy or necessary to organize bank transfers for your time away? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, what is the name/address of the bank you used?
Is it better to take ☒ Canadian or ☐ American ☐ money or ☐ travellers cheques?
What is the current exchange rate between the currency in use where you are now living and the Canadian dollar? 33 bht/1 Can. the American dollar? 32 bht/1 US

continued on reverse
Academic details

Was it possible for you to get all of the courses that you wanted?  ☑ Yes  ☐ No

Please describe the course registration procedure:  It is done in person, not on the computer and due dates are very important.

What is the language of instruction in your courses?  English

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university, with specific reference to changes that might be implemented here at Simon Fraser University.

Teaching style was very relaxed and in smaller classes, personal. There is a great deal to learn about respect in Thailand and I feel some students got carried away with the comradery, not realizing they were being disrespectful.

What do you feel is/will be the main academic benefit of your participation in this exchange program?

It was a great experience living in another culture. Academically I feel I am more capable of adapting to new situations and going with the flow, so to speak.

Describe the campus, including its size and population, its atmosphere and facilities, its proximity to a major population centre or city, etc.

The university was in the 'old city', Banglampoo district, and was not accessible by mass transit. Commuting to and from university was a drag. The atmosphere within campus grounds was relaxed (after getting used to the uniforms and cheerleading).

Comment on any other aspect of your experience which you think might be appropriate for students considering this exchange.

Learn as much of the language as possible and wear your uniform because those two qualities will help you fit in and gain respect from locals.